Ministry had identified about 150 such schemes in the Budget which needed to be axed to save about Rs. 1,000 crores as reported in 'India Today' dated 18th March, 1987; and

(b) if so, the names of such schemes, the amount spent on each one of them during each of the last three years and final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The report is incorrect.

Strength of NCC Cadets

219. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of NCC cadets in the country;

(b) what had been their number during the last three years;

(c) whether there has been any increase or, decline in the strength of NCC cadets; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to popularise NCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) The enrolled strength of NCC cadets as on 31st March, 1986, was 10,11,166.

(b) The number of NCC Cadets during the last three years was as under:—

1983-84	9,82,513
1984-85	10,00,921
1985-86	10,11,166

(c) There has been a marginal increase in the strength of NCC cadets during the last three years.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to popularise the NCC. The notable among them are the following:—

(i) To enable NCC cadets to obtain commission in the Armed Forces, some seats have been earmarked for them in the Service Academies.

(ii) Weightage is also given in their recruitment into the three Services, the Coast Guard and also in the Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Police in some States.

(iii) A number of concessions have been given by both the Central and State Govts. to the NCC cadets for admission in professional institutions.

(iv) Universities have been requested to introduce the NCC as an optional/additional subject in their curricula so that the cadets get due credit for joining the Corps.

(v) A number of adventure activities, viz., hang-gliding, para-sailing rock climbing, trekking and monuntaineering etc., have been introduced in the NCC.

(vi) The NCC has a regular exchange programme with a number of countries under which the cadets get a chance to visit them.

A High Level Committee has been set up by Government recently to review the working of the NCC. The Committee will address itself to the existing scheme of incentives to the cadets and make their recommendations.

Telecast and broadcast of Haj celebration

219. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to telecast and broadcast Haj

celebration directly from Saudi Arabia at the time of Haj during the first week of August, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): There is no such proposal with All India Radio and Doordarshan to broadcast/telecast Haj celebrations directly from Saudi Arabia. However, Doordarshan would make efforts to record the satellite feed available from Saudi Arabian Television and telecast the programme based on the feed as in the past.

Dead Accounts in Nationalised Banks

220. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of dead accounts in the nationalised banks of the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the total amount of deposits of these accounts during the same period; and

(c) the manner in which such money has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the total number of unclaimed deposits accounts, as defined in section 26 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, in the nationalised banks and total amount in these accounts as at the end of last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

As on	No. of Accounts	Amount
31-12-1983	22,69,235	1924·83
31-12-1984	26,57,086	2225·15
31-12-1985	31,55,270	2708·07

(c) These unclaimed deposits form part of a bank's overall funds and is not invested separately.

Half-Yearly Interest to Bank Account

221. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the guidelines of the R.B.I. interest has to be added to the accounts of account holders of banks every six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these guidelines or directives of the R.B.I. are not being followed by the State Bank of India and its branches and that interest is added in these banks only once a year; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take against the violation of the directives of the R.B.I. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to directives of Reserve Bank of India all the Scheduled Commercial Banks are permitted to pay interest on savings and fixed deposit accounts at quaterly or longer rests. The interest on saving bank account is calculated on the minimum balance existing between 10th to the end month. The State Bank of India credits interest on savings interest once a year, as at the end of September, but the actual calculations are on a monthly basis so that the depositors do not suffer any loss.

(c) Does not arise.

Reduction in Prices After the Budget

222. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of any items of common consumption have gone down as a result of the reliefs